Child marriage in Bihar

†1478. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news reports in which it has been stated that a large number of child marriages were solemnized on occasion of 'Akshay Tritiya' in Bihar;

(b) whether any report has been sought from the State Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for prevention of child marriage and to ascertain the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The State Government has been requested to give information if any such child marriages were solemnized.

(c) In order to prohibit the practice of Child Marriage, appropriate amendments have been proposed in the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 and the Bill is under process for submission to Cabinet. Also, awareness generation and sensitization programmes are being undertaken for this purpose. The National Commission for Women has also requested State Governments, to take earnest steps by strong administrative action and creation of awareness to prevent child marriages.

Spreading of Aids

†1479. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are fully aware of the fact that AIDS can transmit from one to another person;

(b) if so, whether prostitutes are also responsible for this to a great extent;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to impose blanket ban on this trade; and

(d) if so, by when and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.